AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following header and paragraph immediately after the Title of the Invention:

Related Applications

This application is a US National Phase of International Application No. PCT/IB2005/000192, filed January 27, 2005, designating the US and published in English on September 1, 2005 as WO 2005/080561, which claims the benefit of South African Patent Application No. 2004/0685, filed January 28, 2004.

Please add the following header on page 1 immediately above line 9:

Field of the Invention

Please add the following header on page 1 immediately above line 13:

Description of the Related Art

Please add the following header on page 2 immediately above line 9:

Summary of the Invention

Please add the following header on page 9 immediately above line 20:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Please add the following header on page 9 immediately above line 30:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, line 32 through page 10, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

1 g of lipase Amano AK was added to 195 g phosphate buffered saline (PBS) solution (pH 7.8) and 5 g mineral oil (Castrol). This blend was then homogenized for 5 minutes using a Silverson L4R laboratory rotor-stator homogenizer at 6000 rpm. 1.5 g of hexamethylene di-isocyanate (Merck Schuchardt) was added to the emulsion. The emulsion was then stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The cross-linked enzyme structures were then recovered by filtration using 0.45 μm filter paper and washed 5 times with 50 ml of PBS each time (total 250 ml PBS). Figure 1 shows typical stabilized enzyme spheres or structures obtained according to the method. Particle ~~sized~~ sizes were determined using laser light scattering (Malvern Mastersizer 2000), and an average Sauter mean diameter of 49.4 μm was obtained (see Fig. 2).

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 1-7 with the following amended paragraph:

After crosslinking the emulsion was centrifuged at 10000 rpm for 5 minutes using a Beckman J2-21 ME centrifuge fitted with JA 20.1 rotor, after which the oil phase was removed. The pellet was washed thrice with 10 ml of 100 mM Tris-Cl buffer (pH 8.0) and pellet was recovered using centrifugation as mentioned above. After washing the pellet was resuspended in 1 ml buffer and assayed for enzyme activity. Figure 3 ~~1~~ shows the enzyme spheres obtained. The spheres had a narrow size distribution between about 10 and 100 μm (Figure 4 ~~2~~).

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 28-31 with the following amended paragraph:

Activity retention of spheres as compared to CLEA's with ρ-nitrophenylpalmitate as the substrate was measured as 2.7% for lipase spheres and 3.4% for CLEA's while activity with ρ-nitrophenylbutyrate as the substrate was measured as 53.7% for lipase spheres and 6.5% for CLEA's.

Please replace the header "CLAIMS:" on page 17 with the following header:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please add an Abstract provided herewith as the last page of the Specification.